THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.

Labour reforms

1039. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to inauguarate a series of labour reforms in order to secure global competitiveness;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether recommendations of the Second Labour Commission have been taken into consideration in this context;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether various trade unions and labour organisations have been involved in programme of labour reforms and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) Review/updation of labour laws is a continuous process in order to bring them in tune with the prevailing situation and emerging needs of the economy. Taking into consideration the requirement of productivity competitiveness employment generation and to update the provisions of labour laws, a need has been felt to make amendments in certain labour legislations and steps initiated accordingly. Thus, amendments in the Trade Unions Act, 1926, the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 and Cine Workers' Welfare Fund Act, 1981 were recently carried out. Meanwhile the Second National Commission has submitted its report to the Government. The Commission has made a wide ranging recommendations on various facets of labour *viz.* review of laws, social security, women & child labour, skill development, labour administration, unorganised sector etc.,

(c) to (e) The Ministry has held consultations and interactions, with the workers' representatives, employers' organizations, experts, professionals etc. The recommendations of the Commission were discussed in the 38th Session of Indian Labour Conference held on 28-29 September 2002 and in a National Seminar on Unorganised Sector

Workers held on 7-8 November 2002 and also in a Tripartite Committee meeting held on 18-19 February 2003. Such steps are being taken to bring about a workable consensus for implementation of the recommendations of the Commission. However, given the procedure involved, it is not possible to specify the time limit.

Annual growth rate

†1040. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that annual growth rate of 4.4 per cent has been assessed for the year 2002-03 by the Central Statistical Organisation;

(b) whether Government agree with this assessment; and

(c) if not, Government's assessment in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) As per the Advance Estimates released by the Central Statistical Organisation, the rate of growth, measured in terms of GDP at Factor Cost (at 1993-94 prices), is estimated to be 4.4 per cent for the year 2002-03.

(b) and (c) The Central Statistical Organisation is an agency of the Government of India and is responsible for coordination of statistical activities in the country, including National Income Accounting, and evolving and maintaining statistical standards. However, the estimates undergo revision as and when the latest information becomes available.

Hiring of private professional agencies

1041. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI:
SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have authorised Ministries to hire professional agencies to work out the impact assessment of big budget Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the States/UTs;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.